

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 18-28 without prejudice:

1. (Previously presented) A coin recycling machine for receiving coins, for sorting coins into a plurality of denominations and for automatically dispensing coins as a plurality of sorted denominations to an individual receptacle associated with a respective user and having compartments for receiving and holding respective denominations, the machine comprising:

a housing;

an intake area on the housing configured for receiving batches of unsorted coins which are dumped into the machine by the user from the individual receptacle having compartments for holding respective denominations;

a sorting mechanism for receiving the batches of coins loaded into the machine and sorting the coins into a plurality of denominations;

a plurality of dispensing hoppers for holding the coins by denomination in unstacked piles by denomination, the dispensing hoppers having respective exits positioned for dispensing to an individual receptacle having compartments for receiving and holding respective denominations;

a plurality of bulk coin storage receptacles positioned for receiving the coins from the sorting mechanism and holding the coins in unstacked piles by denomination for transfer to the dispensing hoppers;

coin transfer mechanisms for transferring coins from the bulk coin storage receptacle to the dispensing hoppers;

an input device for transferring inputs from a user to associate the user with a batch of coins being loaded into the machine from the individual receptacle and to associate the user with coins being dispensed to the user in an individual receptacle having compartments for holding respective denominations; and

a controller electronically connected to the input device and to the sorter for calculating first totals for amounts of coins received through the intake area and associated with the user, the controller also being electrically connected to the dispensing hoppers for automatically dispensing coins to the individual receptacle associated with the user and having compartments for receiving and holding respective denominations and accumulating second totals for coins being dispensed, and for making available the first and second totals associated with the user for comparison; and

wherein the controller associates inputs from a plurality of users with cash balances of coins dispensed and received for respective users during their respective work shifts.

2. (Original) The coin recycling machine of claim 1, wherein the controller also controls the coin transfer mechanisms for transferring coins from the bulk coin storage receptacle to the dispensing hoppers.

3. (Original) The coin recycling machine of claim 2, wherein the controller has a plurality of control circuits one for each denomination, which control transfer of coins from a respective one of the bulk coin storage receptacle to a respective one of the dispensing hoppers.

4. (Previously presented) The coin recycling machine of claim 1, wherein each of the bulk coin storage receptacles has a capacity at least three times the capacity of one of the dispensing hoppers.

5. (Original) The coin recycling machine of claim 4, and further, wherein each of the bulk coin storage receptacles has a capacity at least ten times the capacity of one of the dispensing hoppers.

6. (Original) The coin recycling machine of claim 1, wherein said controller is able to total the coins being loaded into the machine in an input operation as well as counting of coins being dispensed in an output operation during a time interval in which the input operation is also being conducted.

7. (Original) The coin recycling machine of claim 1, further comprising diverters positioned near exits from the bulk coin storage receptacles for directing coins either to the dispensing hoppers or to coin bags.

8. (Previously presented) The coin recycling machine of claim 9, wherein the bulk coin storage receptacles have lifting platforms for lifting coins from the receptacles to a predefined height for contact by the skimmer mechanisms.

9. (Previously presented) The coin recycling machine of claim 1, wherein the coin transfer mechanisms further comprise skimmer mechanisms mounted on the bulk coin storage receptacles for pushing coins on top of the unstacked piles from bulk coin storage receptacles to the dispensing hoppers.

10. (Previously presented) The coin recycling machine of claim 1, wherein the bulk coin storage receptacles operate by gravity, and

wherein the coin transfer mechanisms further comprise mechanisms which allow coins to gravity feed downward from the bulk coin storage receptacles to the dispensing hoppers.

11. (Previously presented) The coin recycling machine of claim 1, the housing has a cash drawer receiving slot in a front side of the housing that is configured to receive a cash drawer having multiple compartments; and

wherein the coins are dispensed into the multiple compartments of the cash drawer by denomination.

12. (Previously presented) The coin recycling machine of claim 1, wherein the controller includes memory for storing a plurality of user accounts with a balance per user of coins received and coins dispensed during a work shift.

13. (Previously presented) The coin recycling machine of claim 1, wherein:

the input device is a card reader input device electrically connected to the controller for transferring inputs from a plurality of users to the controller.

14. (Previously presented) The coin recycling machine of claim 1, wherein:

the input device is a touch screen input device electrically connected to the controller for transferring inputs from a plurality of users to the controller.

15. (Previously presented) The coin recycling machine of claim 1, wherein:

the input device is a personal computer electrically connected to the controller for transferring inputs from a plurality of users to the controller.

16. (Original) The coin recycling machine of claim 1, further comprising a coin level sensor in each dispensing hopper and wherein the controller responds to a signal from the coin level sensor to actuate the coin transfer mechanisms to transfer coins from bulk coin storage receptacles to the dispensing hoppers.

17. (Previously presented) The coin recycling machine of claim 1, wherein the controller is responsive to denomination sensors associated with the dispensing hoppers and is responsive to inputs from a user in a first operating cycle of the machine to cause the receptacles to dispense an amount of coins sorted by denomination and to store the dispensed amount of coins in memory in association with a user account number, the controller being responsive to input of a batch of coins and the user account number in a second cycle to count the coins received, and store the amount of coins received and the amount of coins dispensed for comparison to determine a net amount of cash associated with the user.

18. – 28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The coin recycling machine of claim 11, wherein:

the controller includes a memory for storing a plurality of user accounts with a balance per user of coins received and coins dispensed during a work shift; and

the coin recycling machine further comprising a card reader input device electrically connected to the controller for transferring inputs from a plurality of users to the controller.